3: Bowen C-4 (1945-1947) 1951 MK2 Maritime Arabs MK2

his great toe completely severed by a large piece of faroush that had slipped and hit his foot as he stood on the sea bottom.

Hasa, known to Americans familiar with native construction in Arabia as "sea rock," is found on the sea bottom in more or less solid deposits, from which a diver pries pieces (Fig. 15). Faroush is much more difficult to mine: it takes at least a day to get a boatload, whereas a crew may get three

FIG. 14—Author standing by slabs of *faroush* on the shore of Bahrein Island. Faroush is mined near Bahrein in much larger pieces than in Arabian waters. Pile of *hasa* in right background.

or four boatloads of hasa a day. Faroush is sold by the square measure, hasa by the cubic measure.

The rock divers, like the pearl divers, work only in the warmer months. Since they generally work in water that is shallower than the pearl waters and therefore remains warm longer, the mining season is two or three months longer than the pearling season, which is only four months. The rock divers do not work constantly, hour after hour, day in and day out, as the pearl divers do, since each boatload has to be sailed to shore. A small stock pile of faroush and hasa is always maintained in every seaboard town, and most of its buildings are constructed from these two rocks. Lime is made by burning hasa.

The crews mining coral rock work on the "debt system," notoriously exploited in the Persian Gulf pearling industry. Although they are paid good